

20 Oct 70

Letters to the Editor

Center cannot be 'purely academic'

To the Daily Egyptian:

While I was attending the Student Senate meeting on October 14, 1970, U.S. Senator Charles Percy made a surprise appearance at the meeting. He said that he wanted to know how students felt about various issues. During the following discussion, the controversial Center for Vietnamese Studies was questioned as to its integrity as a scholarly and academic Center.

Senator Percy had previously sent a personal aide to SIU's campus during spring break of 1970 to investigate the Center's activities. Because Percy's aide came here during break, no members of the peace groups or other critics were consulted as to why they oppose the Center. As a result of the absence of students on campus at the time, Senator Percy's aide received only one perspective on the Center—that of the administrators who support the Center.

During the discussion of the Viet Studies Center at the Senate meeting, Senator Percy said that the Center is social, economical and political in nature. Assuming that he formulated his opinion from the results of his investigation, it seems to me impossible for the University administrators and Center personnel to truthfully claim that the Center is purely academic. And since it is social, economical and political in nature, I feel that the Vietnamese Studies Center has no right to be on any university campus.

Larry Wheeler
Junior
Botany

Open letter to Percy raises two questions

To the Daily Egyptian:

An open letter to Senator Percy:

When you were on our campus on October 14, you are reported to have asked critics of its AID funded Vietnam Center to prove that it is not purely academic. I take it you thought the only critics of the Center on our campus are those who oppose university involvement in technical assistance programs which are in support of the foreign policy of the United States. Yet as some of us see the matter, far more serious questions are raised if the AID funded Center on our campus is, as its supporters claim, engaged in pure academic research.

Two of these questions must be faced in Washington by our elected officials.

Firstly, is it the intent of the legislation authorizing 211d grants to make it possible for an agency like AID to fund academic research which is pure, i.e. research which is not tied in to foreign policy goals and interests of the United States? The issue is not whether the Center is not in agreement with these goals, but whether

an agency whose task it is to further them should be funding academic research which might, if free and open, point out publicly the absurdity of some of these goals and interests. Surely pure academic research is more properly funded through HEW.

Secondly, many of us feel that the funding of pure academic research by an agency such as AID raises serious questions of academic freedom. After all, because of the nature of the task assigned it by Congress, AID must make use of some kind of blacklist. How is the academic community with its limited resources to determine whether a blacklist is being used in the case of academic research funded by AID?

If the Congress, is interested in making the universities non political enclaves of free and open teaching and research, then let it take one of the first steps along this path and forbid AID, as I am sure it intended to when it authorized 211d grants, the authority to fund pure academic research.

Matthew J. Kelly
Assistant Professor
Philosophy

Vietnam Center critic

20 Oct. 70

Allen to see AAUP

By Rich Davis
Daily Egyptian Staff Writer

A meeting is scheduled Tuesday between the executive committee of the Carbon-dale Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and Doug Allen, instructor in philosophy and Vietnam center critic, according to Charles G. Stalon, president of the local group.

Stalon said he expects a decision at the meeting on what the AAUP will do concerning the change in Allen's contract.

The Board of Trustees Friday deleted a conditional section of Allen's contract which would have given him an assistant professorship and continuing status with the University upon completion of his Ph. D. requirements, leaving Allen with a nine-month contract which expires June 15.

Chancellor Robert G. Layer said Monday that the AAUP was one group which might aid Allen in getting the Board to reconsider its action.

Allen issued the following statement Monday afternoon: "I appreciate all of the concern shown on my behalf. At present I am working through various channels. I am in contact with Chancellor Layer, the AAUP and the ACLU. I know that many students and faculty are very impatient and see this as a clear violation of academic freedom. I can well understand their anger because this type of action threatens all of our academic freedom. However, I cannot emphasize too strongly the need to remain nonviolent. I would not consider any act of violence as an action on my behalf. I

myself have always been non-violent and intend to proceed on this matter in a peaceful and rational manner."

Other comments around the University Monday were in favor of the Board action.

Harvey I. Fisher, chairman of the Department of Zoology, said he felt the Board was justified in deleting the conditional section of the contract. "We cannot have people not living up to their contracts."

Fisher said he didn't see any reason for Allen to complain since Allen should have completed his Ph.D. requirements under previous conditional contracts with the University.

Fisher said the whole picture has not been presented to the public, but instead, a one-sided view of the situation has been printed.

He wanted to know what Allen's teaching load was and how he stood toward completing his Ph.D. requirements.

He said he did not support "the philosophy or actions of Doug Allen, Matt Kelly, associate professor of philosophy, and Willis Moore (chairman of the Department of Philosophy)."

Kelly recently opposed the seating of Randall Nelson, chairman of the Department

(Continued on page 9)

Gus Bode



Gus says he had heard there was to be a fall offensive, but not by the Board of Trustees.

Doug Allen consults

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AAUP on contract

(Continued from page 1)
of Government, on the Chancellor's Blue Ribbon Committee studying the Center for Vietnamese Studies.

Paul Morrill, assistant to President Emeritus Delyte W. Morris, said he personally supports the Board action.

Morrill also said news reports were one-sided.

Willis Malone, Vice Chancellor, said Monday that if Allen was not to be rehired by the University, a written notice would have to be sent to Allen by Dec. 15, six months prior to the termination of Allen's contract.

Allen has not yet signed the term contract offered by the Board.

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said he will comment further on criticism leveled at him after Tuesday's meeting with the AAUP.



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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional) Daily Egyptian, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale: Items
(20 Oct 70) Related to the Center for Vietnamese Studies Controversy

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

STATINTL

DATE

21 October 1970

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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